

Appl. No. 10/788,577
Amdt. Dated August 15, 2006
Reply to Office Action of January 24, 2006

REMARKS

Applicant has amended claims 1 and 13, kept claims 3-6 and 14-16 unchanged, and added new claims 17-20.

Claim Rejection Under 35 U.S.C. 103

Claims 1, 3-6 and 13-16 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Nakamaru et al., JP 2001-281654, in view of Iijima, US Patent No. 6,906,767.

In response, Applicant hereby respectfully traverses this rejection thereof.

Claim 1, as currently amended, recites in part:

“...a backlight module having a light source, a light guide plate, a reflector, and a quarter-wave plate, ... and at least one of the following elements:

a plurality of V-shaped grooves formed directly in a top surface of the light guide plate, the v-shaped grooves being configured for diffusing light; and

a diffuser positioned on top of the light guide plate;

and

a liquid crystal panel having a reflective polarizing element, the liquid crystal panel being located on the backlight module, and the reflective polarizing element facing a top surface of the light guide plate.”

Claim 13, as currently amended, recites in part:

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“...a reflective polarizing element located above the light guide plate; and at least one of the following elements:

a plurality of V-shaped grooves formed directly in a top surface of the light guide plate, the v-shaped grooves being configured for diffusing light; and

a diffuser positioned on top of the light guide plate, such a diffuser being interposed between the light guide plate and the reflective polarizing element.”

In item 5 of page 3 of the present Office Action, Examiner states that “In this case, the Iijima’s reflection polarizing plate 40 can be formed over and spaced from the light guide plate 72; therefore, the modification to Nakamura et al. in view of Iijima would not destroy the Nakamura et al. device for any reason since both device do have the light guide plate.”

However, the problem to be solved by Nakamura et al. disclosed in paragraphs [0014]-[0015] recites in part:

“[0014] As long as this meant reflective polarization reuse, it meant that the increment in components mark was nonavoidable, and this was contrary to the further lightweight-izing which is a demand for the liquid crystal display component from a commercial scene, thinning, and cost reduction. Since the increment in components mark had led also to deterioration of display quality, it had bad influence also on the manufacture side.

[0015] For example, there was a problem that the yield was bad as a result, from becoming the cause of display unevenness, if control of the clearance between components is not easy and the

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homogeneity of the distance between components is confused..."
(Emphasis added)

The above translation of Nakamura et al. is available under the address <http://www4.ipdl.ncipi.go.jp/Tokujitu/tisogodbenk.ipdl> provided by the Japan Patent Office.

Further, the problem to be solved by Nakamura et al., as clearly stated in the English translation of the Abstract, is "to realize functions of a polarized light separation plate and a light-transmitting body...only by the light transmitting body..."

Hence, even though both devices of Nakamura et al. and Iijima do have the light guide plate, to modify Nakamura et al. to provide any further elements thereto and, moreover, to particularly include a reflecting polarizing element formed over and spaced from the light guide plate would render Nakamura et al. UNSATISFACTORY FOR MORE THAN ONE INTENDED PURPOSE thereof (MPEP 2143.01, Part V). In particular, Applicant respectfully submits that the Examiner must appreciate that the goal or purpose of Nakamura et al. is not just simply to have a light guide plate, as contended by the Examiner. Instead, Nakamura et al. is particularly concerned with yielding a LCD that has a reduced weight, thickness, and cost of manufacture and with avoiding or at least reducing the potential for display unevenness. The Examiner has not appropriately addressed how the proposed modification would not have a likely adverse effect on each such current advantage of Nakamura et al. Accordingly, absent such a showing by the Examiner, Applicant maintains that it indeed would not have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to have modified Nakamura et al. with Iijima, in the manner proposed

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by the Examiner in order to arrive at the subject matter of amended claims 1 and/or 13.

Thus, it would not have been obvious under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) to have modified Nakamura et al, whether taken alone or in combination with another cited reference, i.e., Iijima, to arrive at the liquid crystal display defined in either of amended claims 1 and 13.

Accordingly, claims 1 and 13 are submitted to be unobvious and patentable over Nakamaru et al. in view of Iijima. Reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection and allowance of claims 1 and 13 are respectfully requested.

Claims 3-6 and new claims 17-20 directly or indirectly depend from independent claims 1 and 13 respectively, therefore, should also be allowable.

Claim 14, as previously presented, recites in part:

“...a light guide plate interposed between the reflective polarizing element and the quarter-wave plate, the light guide plate having a top surface facing and spaced from the reflective polarizing element...”
(Emphasis added)

As discussed above, even though both devices of Nakamura et al. and Iijima do have the light guide plate, to modify Nakamura et al. to provide an additional reflective polarizing element and, moreover, to provide such an element formed over and spaced from the light guide plate render unsatisfactory more than one of the above-stated intended purposes (MPEP 2143.01, Part V) of Nakamura et al.

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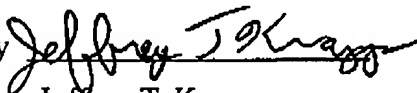
Therefore, claim 14 and its dependent claims 15-16 are submitted to be novel, unobvious and patentable over Nakamura et al. or any of the other cited references, i.e., Iijima, taken alone or in combination under both 35 U.S.C. 102(b) and 103. Reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection and allowance of claim 1 are respectfully requested.

Applicant further submits that any rejection of any of claims 14-16 on new grounds in the next Office Action could not be considered as being necessitated by amendment. Thus, if the next Office Action rejects any of claims 14-16 based on new grounds, such an Office Action cannot be made FINAL, as per MPEP §706.07(a).

Conclusion

In view of the foregoing, the present application as claimed in the pending claims is considered to be in a condition for allowance, and an action to such effect is earnestly solicited.

Respectfully submitted,
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